

## FOSTER CARE FOR A TEMPORARY PERIOD

This thesis describes and critically judges the legal regulation, practice and purpose of foster care for a temporary period in the Czech Republic. Children temporarily or permanently deprived of their family environment or children, who cannot be left in such environment, are entitled to a special protection and assistance granted by the state in one of alternative care forms. The Czech Republic is criticized for a long time by the international organizations because of numbers of children placed in any type of institutional care. Consequently, the amendment of the Act N. 359/1999 Coll., on social and legal protection of children, has been approved in June 2006. This amendment has established a new legal institute called „the foster care for a temporary period“. The function of this institute is to avoid a placement of children to an institutional care in the case, when the children can not stay in the original family because of whatever reason however there is a presumption of re-entry to that original family. Parents still have their parental responsibilities and still have right to keep in touch with their child. The thesis is composed of six chapters, which are subdivided into subchapters. Chapter One deals with the historical development of foster care. Chapter Two has to introduce the reader into the problems of substitute family care in the Czech Republic. There are compared the types of the substitute family care and institutional treatment with focus on the foster care for a temporary period. Next two chapters deal with a detailed description and analysis of the valid legal regulation of foster care for a temporary period. Chapter Three includes a review of legal regulations, international conventions and recommendations related to a foster care. In Chapter Four, there are mentioned single presumptions and requests on the person of a fosterer and a child, claims and duties of a fosterer and a child, control of foster care by the state and the foster care benefits. There is also mentioned a new legal regulation of foster care in The New Civil Code. The fifth chapter of the thesis aims the attention to legal regulation of foster care *de lege ferenda* in connection with the amendment to an Act No. 359/1999 Coll., on social and legal protection of children. The last chapter is dedicated to the professional foster care.